

Eggsperiments

by Beverley Brenna

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Characters: Mrs. Bunny
Bedison Bunny
Snowball
Snowbank
Snowflake
First neighbour rabbit
Other neighbour rabbits (4-5)
Basket brigade (variable number of children)
Children (4 or more)

Setting: *The stage contains a table and two chairs in the centre, a rocking chair on stage left and a pile of carrot tops (made from green art roll paper and much "larger than life") stacked on stage right. This is the inside of the Bunny cottage. The **Basket Brigade** and the **Children** are seated on risers to the left or right of the stage. **Mrs. Bunny** enters from stage right and is looking for someone.*

MRS. BUNNY (*looking around*): Bedison? Bedison?
BEDISON! (*to the audience*) You haven't seen my youngest bunny around anywhere, have you? Oh, he's such a mischief maker! (*She continues looking then goes off stage left still calling "Bedison."*)

(*Bedison appears from under the pile of carrot tops. He has a coloured egg in one hand and a small box in the other. A paper facial tissue hangs out of the box.*)

BEDISON: Now, if I could only figure out from how high this box could be dropped before the egg in it would break. Hmmm. Let's see. (*He climbs onto a chair, puts the egg in the box, holds it up high and then drops it. He looks in the box.*) I guess that was too high. (*He brings out a handkerchief and begins to wipe the bottom of the box and the floor where it landed. Mrs. Bunny enters.*)

MRS. BUNNY: Now there you are . . . Bedison? Oh, you haven't broken *another* one?! You know those eggs are for Easter. What will the Basket Brigade do if there aren't enough eggs to give the children?

BEDISON: But I was just . . .

MRS. BUNNY: Yes, you're always "just". Now you're going right to bed. *March!!*

Mrs. Bunny and Bedison exit stage right. Bedison's three sisters, Snowball, Snowbank and Snowflake enter from stage left.

SNOWBALL (*looking off stage right*): Ha! Bedison got sent to bed early again! Serves him right!

SNOWBANK *walking over to the spot where the egg was dropped*): I don't know. The more sleep he gets, the more things he thinks up to do the next day. YUK! This floor is sticky! (*She licks her paw and rubs the bottom of her foot with it.*)

SNOWFLAKE: Come on you two. We've only got a few more pieces to put in that Easter people puzzle we're doing. Maybe if we hurry, we can be done tonight.

The three bunnies join arms and skip off stage left. Mrs. Bunny enters from stage right.

MRS. BUNNY: Quiet at last! Now I should set these eggs out. Tomorrow we'll put the stripes and zig-zags on them. (*She sets an egg carton filled with coloured eggs on the table. She crosses to the rocking chair, picks up her knitting or a book and soon falls asleep. She snores quietly.*)

Bedison sneaks in carrying a box that has a small, cloth parachute attached to it. He holds this up so the audience can see.

BEDISON: I bet this will work! *(He takes an egg from the carton on the table then starts back towards the stage right exit.)* Just one try, and then I'll bring it back. *(He exits.)* Here goes! *(A loud smack is heard. Bedison re-enters.)* Oops! Well . . . maybe if I filled the box with water . . . *(He takes another egg and exits again.)*

The lights dim and the curtains close to indicate the passage of time. Someone must remove several eggs from the carton so it is only half full. When this is done, the curtains re-open and the lights go up.

MRS. BUNNY *(waking up)*: Oh my, I had such a dream! I dreamed that . . . *(she notices the half-filled egg carton.)* HALF THE EGGS ARE GONE!

Bedison's three sisters, hearing her shout, appear from stage left.

SNOWFLAKE, SNOWBALL, SNOWBANK *(in unison)*: Half the eggs are gone? We know who took them. We know who did it!

The three bunny sisters join hands and move to the front of the stage. The Basket Brigade and the Children stand to sing "Accusations" with the sisters.

Accusations

Snowball and Chorus: Bedison!

Snowflake and Chorus: Bedison!

Snowbank and Chorus: Bedison!

In unison:

He took the eggs for his silly invention;
He took the eggs and we think we should
mention

That he's sitting in the front yard, up in a tree,
As silly as only Bedison can be . . .
As Bedison, Bedison, Bedison can be.

A knock is heard. Mrs. Bunny goes to stage left to open it. The Rabbit Neighbours walk in.

FIRST NEIGHBOUR: Excuse me, but we thought you should know that your Bedison, well he's . . .

(The Rabbit Neighbours join the Bunny sisters to sing the second verse of "Accusations" with the Chorus.)

Neighbours and Chorus:

Sitting in the front yard, up in a tree
What an awful place for a rabbit to be
And he's dropping this box continuously,

First Neighbour *(spoken)*:

And when I hopped by something splashed
down on me!

Rabbit Neighbours *(singing)*:

And me, and me, and me, and me, and me—
and me!

The Chorus sits down as the song ends. The Rabbit Neighbours cross their arms and face Mrs. Bunny.

MRS. BUNNY: Oh no, I'm terribly sorry. Just wait here. Someone's got a lot of explaining to do. *(She hurries off stage right and returns holding Bedison by both ears.)*



ALL *(in unison)*: Bedison, you're really in trouble this time!

BEDISON: I know it. I know it. But at least let me explain . . . I was just experimenting. Or maybe I should say . . . eggsperimenting.

Bedison goes to centre stage. The Chorus stands again and together they sing "Inventions." They sing only verses 1, 2, and 4 this time through.

Inventions

1. When you think about inventing something
Thinking isn't all that counts,
You try it! You've got to try it out.
When you think about creating something,
You forget about amounts . . .
You try it! You've got to try it out.

2. And if you try a lot of times and nothing will work,
You've got to find an answer or you feel like a jerk.
4. And if no one ever kept on trying,
Think of all we'd be without,
Just try it!
I think without a doubt, without inventions . . .
Without inventions . . .
We'd still be stuck down deep in a hole in the ground!

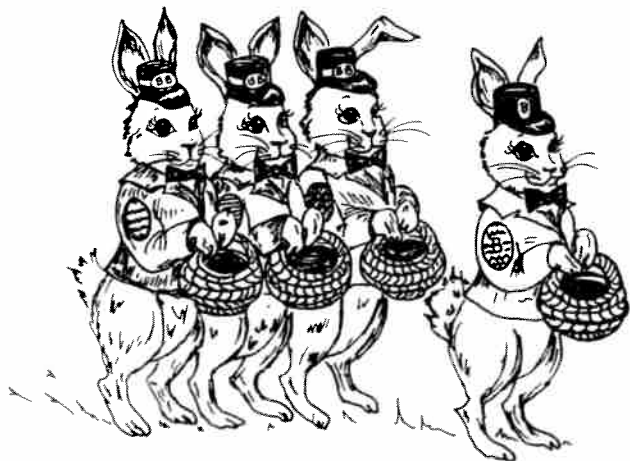
*The **Basket Brigade** section of the **Chorus** remains standing but the **Children** sit down when the song ends.*

MRS. BUNNY: Well that's all very well, but what about the eggs? We don't have enough for the children anymore.

SNOWFLAKE, SNOWBANK, SNOWBALL (in unison): If Bedison's so smart at inventing, he could invent more eggs. (They giggle.)

BEDISON: I don't think I could do that. But I think I might have another idea . . .

*(Bedison exits stage right and the others follow him out. They are curious to see what he will do. As soon as the stage is bare, the **Basket Brigade**, carrying their empty baskets, marches off the risers and onto the stage to the sound of "The Basket Brigade March." They may do a short marching drill before they form a line to sing.)*



The Basket Brigade March

We're the Basket Brigade, we're collecting eggs today.
A quick stop here and then we'll be on our way.
We are quick and reliable. We won't let you down.
Leave your eggs with us and we'll get them into town.

BASKET BRIGADE LEADER: Hello! Is anybody home?

MRS. BUNNY (enters from stage right): Oh, it's the Basket Brigade. I'm afraid we're not ready for you. You see . . .

BEDISON (hurries onto the stage carrying a carton that has coloured egg shells filled with earth in it): Wait, Mother. I've finished them! (Mrs. Bunny picks out an egg shell and holds it up.) I planted some seeds in each shell, see? By the time the children get them, the plants will have started to grow. Eggplants!

MRS. BUNNY: Eggplants?

BASKET BRIGADE: Eggplants?

BEDISON: Eggplants!

ALL (in unison): What a good idea!

Snowbank, Snowball, Snowflake and the Rabbit Neighbours join the others on stage to sing the reprise of "Inventions." This time they sing Verses, 1, 3 and 4.

Inventions - Reprise

1. When you think about inventing something,
Thinking isn't all that counts,
You try it! You've got to try it out.
When you think about creating something,
You forget about amounts,
You try it! You've got to try it out.
3. And after these eggperiments, Bedison's got
A new replacement for the flower pot.
4. And if no one ever kept on trying,
Think of all we'd be without.
Just try it. I think without a doubt,
Without inventions . . . without inventions . . .
We'd still be stuck down deep in a hole in the ground!

*Four or five members of the **Basket Brigade** each take a coloured shell from **Bedison's** carton and put them in their baskets. The **Bunny Family**, the **Rabbit Neighbours** and the **Basket Brigade** step back as the curtains close and the lights go out. **The Children**, who are still on the risers, are heard in the darkness.*

FIRST CHILD: Wow! There's a plant in this egg!

SECOND CHILD: I've got a green one!

THIRD CHILD: Mine is red!

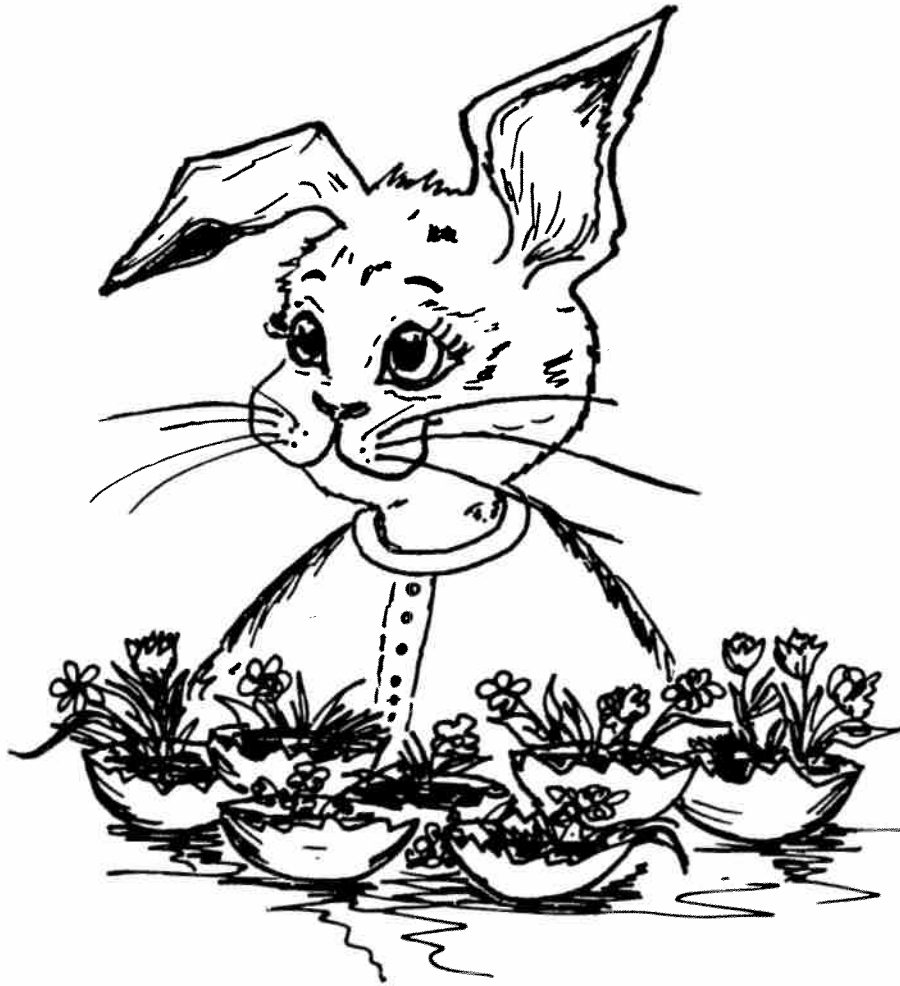
FOURTH CHILD: Look what the Easter bunny brought this year!

*The lights come up to show each of the **Children** holding up an eggshell with a "plant" growing out of it. These could be real plants, plastic or paper ones. The curtains open again and the **Children** on the risers go on stage so that everyone is on stage for the finale.*

Easter (finale)

Easter is for sharing and we'd like to say,
That we hope our Easter show has brightened up your day.
We had fun together, learning it for you.
And we hope your Easter time is happy through and through.

CURTAIN



Staging Hints – Eggsperiments

This little Easter play should provide primary students with many opportunities to get into the “Easter spirit.” You will be able to integrate art, science and music classes when preparing for this production.

The costumes for the play may be elaborate, full-fledged bunny costumes (many patterns for these are available), or simple paper bunny headbands with attached paper bunny ears. If only a few bunny costumes are available, they should be worn by Mrs. Bunny, her daughters and, of course, Bedison. The Children will wear their regular clothing.

One important question you will face in staging this play is whether or not to use real eggs. It will provide a better visual effect (and be less messy!) if the eggs are “larger than life.” In two or three art classes, you can create eggs by covering blown-up balloons with paper maché and then painting the dried eggs with poster paints. About five or six of these will have to be cut jaggedly in half to produce the egg “shells.” You’ll need at least one dozen whole eggs for the production. Half of the egg shells should be filled with “soil” only (kitty litter might make a good, clean substitute for real soil). The other half of the shell can be filled with soil and a real, plastic or paper plant. These halves will be carried by the Children for the finale so ensure that there is one shell per Child.

Another preparatory art project would be to weave paper baskets for the Basket Brigade. These should be made out of coloured bristol board to make them sturdy. If time is limited, ask the children to bring the commercial Easter baskets from home. The carrot tops used in the opening scene can be made of strips of green art roll or crepe paper, bound together with orange tape. There should be enough of these to hide Bedison from his mother. Other props needed are knitting supplies or a book, a facial tissue box, a small cloth parachute (make one out of a square of cloth with strings tied to each corner) and a carton for the eggs. If you’re using paper maché eggs, the styrofoam containers used for hamburgers could be stapled together to produce an oversized egg carton. Take your students on a field trip to McDonald’s before the show!

The set is very simple. You’ll need two chairs, a table and a rocking chair for Mrs. Bunny. You may decide to also paint a mural showing a window and other kitchen furniture to represent the Bunny home as a backdrop. Be sure to have stairs placed so that the children and the Basket Brigade can move easily from the risers to the stage. This group, also referred to as the Chorus, should be placed so they do not block the action on stage.

The production time for this play is 15-20 minutes.

Learning Activities

1. Explore planting seeds in Science class. Children may plant real seeds in small flower pots or milk cartons then place these inside the “egg shells” for the play.
2. Discuss with your students other “eggsperiments” Bedison may have tried. Be brave! Give children some real eggs and allow them to carry out Bedison’s experiments as well as some of their own invention.
3. Ask students to brainstorm all the advantages and disadvantages of Bedison’s version of Easter eggs. You may wish to organize an informal debate with children arguing for or against the replacement of traditional Easter eggs with Bedison’s “Eggplants.”

Accusations

Lyrics & Music by
Beverley Brenna

Part 1

Bedison! Bedison! Bedison! He took the eggs for his

Tenuto

This system of musical notation is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and common time (C). It features a treble and bass clef. The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth notes, with the first three measures containing triplets of eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The bass clef provides a simple accompaniment of eighth notes.

sil - ly in - vention; He took the eggs and we think we should mention That he's

This system continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are: "sil - ly in - vention; He took the eggs and we think we should mention That he's".

si - tting in the front yard, up in a tree, As si - lly as on - ly

This system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "si - tting in the front yard, up in a tree, As si - lly as on - ly".

Be - di - son can be As Bedison, Bedison, Be - di - son can be.

This system concludes the first part of the piece. The lyrics are: "Be - di - son can be As Bedison, Bedison, Be - di - son can be.". It features triplets of eighth notes in the treble clef.

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Part 2

Sitting in the front yard, up in a tree

What an awful place for a rabbit to be And he's dropping this box con-

(spoken): (singing):
- tin-u-ously, And when I hopped by something splashed down on me! And

me, and me, and me, and me and me- and me!



Inventions

Lyrics & Music by
Beverley Brenna

1. When you

think a — bout in — ven — ting something Thinking is — n't all that counts, You try it! You've got to

try it out. When you think a — bout cre — a — ting something, You for — get a — bout amounts You

try it! You've got to try it out. 2. And if you try a lot of times and
3. And af — ter these eggs — per — i — ments,

no — thing will work, You've got to find an an — swer or you feel like a jerk.
Be — di — son's got A new re — placement for the flo — wer pot. 4. And if

no one e-ver kept on trying, Think of all we'd be with-out, Just

try it! I think with-out a doubt, without in-ventions . . . Without in-

-ven-tions . . . We'd still be stuck down deep in a hole in the ground!

Easter (finale)

Lyrics & Music by
Beverley Brenna

Easter is for sharing and we'd like to
We had fun to-gether, lear-ning it for

say you. That we hope our Ea-ster show has brightened up your day.
And we hope your Ea-ster time is happy through and through.

Basket Brigade March

Lyrics & Music by
Beverley Brenna

We're the Bas-ket Bri-gade, we're co-

-llecting eggs to-day. A quick stop here and then we'll be on our way. We are

quick and re-li-a-ble. We won't let you down. Leave your eggs with us and we'll

get them in-to town.



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